

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 06633 012027Z

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /006 W

-----029477 012032Z /75

O 011955Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8260

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SY CHANNEL

PASS ASAP ST MARS FROM RSO TELFORD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: MARINE SECURITY GUARDS-BRIDGETOWN

REF: ST MARS/TELFORD TELCON 7/1/77

1. I FURNISHED INACCURATE INFORMATION WHEN STATED THAT BRIDGETOWN HAD RECEIVED MESSAGE FROM DEPT ON 1 JUL. SUBSEQUENT TELCON WITH POST CONFIRMS THAT MARINE GUARD SITUATION WAS DISCUSSED TELEPHONICALLY ON 1 JUL BETWEEN CHARGE AND THEODORE HEAVNER, ARA-LA/CAR. PSO DID NOT KNOW SUBSTANCE OF CONVERSATION.

2. THE FOLLOWING ARE INCIDENTS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN BRIDGETOWN:

A. ON 16 DEC 1976 A TELEPHONE BOMB THREAT WAS RECEIVED BY THE LOCAL POLICE STATING THAT A BOMB HAD BEEN PLANTED IN THE AMERICAN EMBASSY. I WAS PRESENT IN BRIDGETOWN AT THE TIME OF THIS THREAT AND CAN ATTEST TO THE INSPECTION THOROUGHNESS LED BY THE NCOIC AND MSGS.

B. ON 20 JANUARY 1977, A BOMB THREAT/EXTORTION INCIDENT TOOK PLACE WHICH, ALTHOUGH INDIRECTLY INVOLVED THE EMBASSY, IT POINTS OUT A CERTAIN MENTALITY WE ARE FACED WITH IN BRIDGETOWN. THE
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BRIDGETOWN BRANCH OF THE FIRST BANK OF CHICAGO RECEIVED A WRITTEN MESSAGE STATING ESSENTIALLY THAT IF A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF CASH WAS NOT LEFT IN THE WASHINGTON DC TELEPHONE DIRECTORY IN THE U.S. EMBASSY LIBRARY, A BOMB WOULD GO OFF IN THE BANK. NOTHING CAME OF THIS INCIDENT.

C. ONCE IN MAY AND AGAIN IN JUNE OF 1977, INTOXICATED AND

DISORDERLY LOCALS HAD TO BE PHYSICALLY ESCORTED OUT OF THE CHANCERY
CONSULAR SECTION BY MARINES. POLICE HAD NOT RESPONDED.

D. IN APRIL 1977, THE DUTY MSG DETECTED THE SMELL OF AN
ELECTRICAL FIRE DURING ONE OF HIS AFTER-HOURS INSPECTION TOURS OF
THE CHANCERY. HIS RAPID RESPONSE, QUICK THINKING AND THE FACT
THAT HE WAS MAKING A TOUR WITHIN THE CHANCERY PERHAPS PREVENTED
SERIOUS DAMAGE. THIS INCIDENT WAS SET FORTH IN THE APRIL RMO
INSPECTION REPORT OF THE BRIDGETOWN DETACHMENT.

3. POLITICALLY, THE CLIMATE IN BARBADOS IS QUIET. FORMER
STATEMENTS OF UNLIKELY CIVIL DISORDER BY BARBADIANS (OF A MAGNITUDE
GREATER THAN PARA 2.C ABOVE), IN WHICH THE EMBASSY OR U.S. CITIZENS
AND PROPERTIES WOULD BE DAMAGED, REMAIN TOTALLY VALID. THIS DOES
NOT, HOWEVER, LESSEN THE UNLIKELY BUT POTENTIAL THREAT OF
EXTREMISTS THROUGH THE VERY LAX BARBADIAN IMMIGRATION CONTROLS.
TO THIS EFFECT, REFERENCE IS MADE TO BRIDGETOWN 1800 OF 2 OCTOBER
1975, PARA 1.C, THE LAST SENTENCE OF WHICH I QUOTE IN PART...
QUOTE-FOR THE PRACTICAL PURPOSE OF RECOGNIZING A POTENTIAL
TERRORIST, IMMIGRATION CONTROLS DO NOT EXIST...END QUOTE. ALTHOUGH
MANY COUNTRIES HAVE ATTEMPTED TO RECTIFY THIS PROBLEM, THE 1975
ESTIMATE REMAINS VALID TODAY IN BARBADOS.

4. PRESENT OFFICIAL U.S. STAFFING IN BRIDGETOWN AS FOLLOWS:

A. STATE WITH NEW AMB/SEC-16
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B. AID-3 (TO BE INCREASED FOR TOTAL OF 10 BY END OF YEAR)

C. PEACE CORPS-BRIDGETOWN STAFF OF 4.
SYI-TOTAL PC VOLUNTEERS IN BARBADOS AND CONSTITUENT ISLANDS
CONTROLLED BY PC BRIDGETOWN-APPROX. 150.

5. CEO-R CARACAS STATES THAT OC HAS APPROVED RELOCATION OF
RADIO AND TELEPHONE TECHNICIANS TO BRIDGETOWN THIS YEAR FOR
POSSIBLE TOTAL OF 32 OFFICIAL AMERICANS BY DECEMBER.

6. AS STATED IN TELCON, I WILL VISIT BRIDGETOWN ON OR ABOUT
11 JULY. ITINERARY WILL FOLLOW.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: SY
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CARACA06633
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: n/a
Format: TEL
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770799/aaaadikq.tel
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Office: ACTION SY
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1988802
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MARINE SECURITY GUARDS - BRIDGETOWN
TAGS: ASEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9df17f72-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009